

**Rhode Island State Planning Council
Draft Minutes of November 10, 2011 Meeting**

Thursday, November 10, 2011
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Mr. Richard Licht	Director, RI DOA
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	RI LOCAT, President's Designee
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Brian Daniels, Vice Chair	Director, Governor's Policy Office
Mr. Kevin Flynn	Associate Director, Statewide Planning
Mr. Wayne Hannon	Representing Mr. Thomas Mullaney, RI DOA, Budget Office
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Dan Beardsley, RI League of Cities and Towns (RI LOCAT)
Mr. Henry Sherlock	Representing Mr. Stephen Cardi, Cardi Corporation
Mr. Bob Shawver	Representing Mr. M. Lewis, Governor's Designee
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

Members Absent

Mr. Thomas Deller	Providence Department of Planning & Development
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RI LOCAT, Government Official Representative
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. William Sequino	Public Member
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate

Guests

Mr. Peter Osborn	Federal Highway Administration
------------------	--------------------------------

Staff – Division of Planning

Ms. Nancy Hess	Supervising Planner, Land Use Section
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, II	Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso	Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Mr. Licht called the meeting to order on November 10, 2011 at 9:06 a.m.

2. Approval of the October 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes – *for vote*

Ms. Cola moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. White-Raymond. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were none.

4. Rhode Island Water 2030: State Guide Plan Consolidation – *for discussion*

Mr. Licht first took a moment to announce the recent resignation of Water Resources Board Chairman, William Penn. He then introduced Ms. Hess who began by discussing the significant edits that were made to Part 1 of the draft since the last meeting. These included the addition of a:

- formal introduction and purpose statement;
- text box describing the Bays Rivers and Watersheds Coordination Team;
- historical overview to the Big River section;
- listing of major water suppliers by municipality (Appendix A); and an
- expanded discussion of the various jurisdictions involved in managing water resources.

In opening the Council's discussion Mr. Licht first asked whether the draft addressed the possible consolidation of the numerous suppliers that exist within the State. Ms. Hess indicated that it touches upon the issue but stops short of making specific consolidation recommendations. Mr. Licht suggested that the notion of consolidation be highlighted and elevated within the Plan.

Mr. Schaefer then asked how many suppliers were operating within the Town of Burrillville. Ms. Hess said that there were two.

Ms. Boyle next drew attention to part 2, page 26 and requested that hydro electric power production be listed as one of the uses that competes for the resource. Ms. Hess indicated that she would make the necessary revisions. A brief discussion of water as a renewable energy source ensued. Given the interest, Mr. Licht took the opportunity to

invite all to attend the first meeting of the RI Renewable Energy Coordinating Board which he would be chairing on November 14.

Mr. Licht next asked why there was a lack of representation in the effort from the Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA). Ms. Hess responded by noting that although the BCWA was invited to serve on the associated Advisory Committee, they declined to participate.

Mr. Licht then returned to the potential consolidation of water suppliers and suggested that the Narragansett Bay Commission example could possibly serve as a model in this instance.

Ms. Boyle asked if gray water re-use could be quantified as a means for reducing finished water demand. Ms. Hess indicated that she would work with DEM to see if estimates could be developed. In follow-up, Mr. Licht referenced the existing Florida Power & Light Company as an example of successful gray water re-use initiative.

Before moving on to Part 3 Ms. Hess took a moment to acknowledge the staff at the Department of DOH for their assistance with the Emergency Planning components of the draft.

Ms. Hess then moved to discuss the significant edits that were made to Part 3 of the draft. These included:

- reformatting the text and matrix so that they follow the same order;
- clarifying differences between population projections and populations counts;
- adding an appendix on anticipated demand.
- expanding the Water Quality section; and
- expanding the Emergency Management section;

During the discussion Mr. Licht asked to what extent the plan was reviewed by the RI Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA). Ms. Hess indicated that she had reached out to RIEMA but had not received any feedback. She then stated that this should not be of great concern as it is the Department of Health and not RIEMA that plays the lead role in planning for drinking water related emergencies.

Mr. Licht again returned to the consolidation concern and asked how the issue could be elevated to receive the attention and action it deserves. Ms. Conard-Wells suggested that a strong educational campaign was needed to inform the general public. Ms. Hess referenced the RI Waters Works Association as an entity that undertakes such educational initiatives and emphasized the benefits that could be achieved by producing an inviting executive summary of the plan as was done for Land Use 2025.

Ms. Boyle stressed that the fundamental message of any ensuing educational campaign must focus on long range supply. This, she stated, must include conservation and source development, but go beyond to address the Byzantine management system that is currently in place.

Mr. Daniels asked if any suppliers were currently using demand management pricing strategies such as tiered or seasonal pricing. Ms. Hess indicated that Block Island was the only instance that she was aware of.

Mr. Licht next noted that the role of the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) in setting water rates should also be discussed within the plan. Of particular concern to Mr. Licht was the rationale for requiring PUC involvement in rate setting in certain circumstances but not in others.

Ms. White-Raymond next inquired whether the draft Plan discussed the provision of water to priority economic development properties. In response, Ms. Hess indicated that the draft does discuss the importance of this but

noted that it doesn't get down to the detail of discussing specific properties. This she said would be a more appropriate focus for the Strategic Planning initiative that the staff of the Water Resources Board was currently undertaking.

As there were no further questions, Mr. Licht thanked Ms. Hess for her presentation and introduced the next agenda item.

5. **2011 Committee Appointment "Slate of Names"** – *for introduction*

Mr. Rhodes began by reminding the Council that various memberships to their Technical Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, RI Geographic Information Systems Executive Committee and Recreation Resource Review Committee either had or would soon be expiring. He then introduced the proposed "Slate of Names" for 2012 appointments as discussed with the Council at their October 20, 2011 meeting and as previously distributed in the Council's November 10, 2011 meeting packets. In concluding he explained that the item was for introductory purposes only and that a vote on the proposed "Slate of Names" would be docketed for the Council's next Meeting following a minimum one month long consideration period.

Under Council discussion Ms. Boyle requested that her name be withdrawn for reappointment to the Recreation Resource Review Committee as a City of East Providence Colleague, Alba Curti, had been nominated by the RI Recreation and Parks Director Association. In response Mr. Rhodes indicated that he would follow-up with the RI Chapter of the American Planning Association to see if they would like to recommend a replacement for Ms. Boyle's nomination.

6. **Proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule** – *for vote*

There being no discussion, Ms. Cola motioned to approve the proposed 2012 meeting schedule as distributed. Ms. White-Raymond seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

7. **Associate Director's Report**

Mr. Flynn advised the Council on the following items:

- FY 13-16 TIP application public hearing schedule;
- 2011 Challenge Grant due date;
- hiring schedule for Statewide Planning vacancies;
- State Rail Plan consultant selection;
- HUD Sustainability Grant status;
- efforts to establish a planning degree program within the State; and
- Jeanne Cola's appointment as RI LISC's Executive Director.

8. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

9. **Adjourn**

Ms. White-Raymond moved to adjourn. Mr. Sherlock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:22 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Flynn", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Flynn
Secretary